

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BA-1107

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

SUMMIT; Elsinore

AND/OR COMMON

James A. Gary House, now Summit Park Apartments

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

10 Stanley Drive

CITY, TOWN

Catonsville

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Baltimore

CODE

005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Adolf Saxon

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1300 Summit Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Catonsville,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21228

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courts Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson,

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Summit is located at number 10 on the north side of Stanley Drive, one block south of Frederick Road (Maryland Route 144), one block north of Rolling Road (Maryland Route 166) and one block east of Hilton Avenue, in Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland.

The large, brick house, once part of a country estate, might be classified as a Franco-Italianate villa. It now sits on a small lot with its architectural front facing north and its east facade facing the street. Viewed head on, it is not overwhelming, seeming to be of domestic proportions. But from the east it is of massive dimensions, with a three-story Italianate tower and large wing extending to the rear.

The main facade is three stories tall and five bays wide, with the tower on the east side extending it visually. A one-story porch with square columns and railings in a scallop pattern runs across the full facade. A row of basement windows is under the porch, two to the west of the stairs and three to the east, the last in line with the tower. The windows contain large, vertical panes. The stairs, flanked by square newel posts and railings with a pattern of two concentric circles, rise before the entrance. The double doors have pilasters on either side and a large, five-light transom and sidelights of three lights over a panel. The four windows on the first floor are narrow and very tall with four-over-four light sash. On the second floor above these windows are also four-over-four light windows, though shorter than those below. In the center bay over the doorway is a three-part window consisting of a window like the others flanked by narrow sash with two-over-two lights placed vertically. Above this is a row of decorative dentils in the brickwork. Most of the windows on the first and second floors have louvered shutters.

The three third floor windows are set in the mansard roof, which is sheathed in slate in several alternating rows of square and hexagonal shingles. The hexagonal rows are in colors, the others grey. A row of iron roof cresting runs around the edge of the roof. The dormers contain double windows with two, two-over-two light sash. Above each pair is a steep gable roof with carved verge board decoration in the peak. The central window is set apart by strips of wood shaping a rhombus. A bracketed cornice runs just under the mansard roof. The flat porch roof has a similar cornice, but with smaller brackets above a plain frieze.

The ground slopes away on the east facade of the house, making room for a range of full-size basement windows. The tower rises two bays to the rear of the main facade. It is two bays wide and one deep. Rising slightly above the mansard roof, it terminates with a bracketed cornice and flat roof. The third floor of the tower has decorative brickwork consisting of a band above and below the windows, of different patterns, and narrow, inset panels on either side of and between the windows.

See Continuation Sheet #1

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Summit  
Baltimore County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

## DESCRIPTION (continued)

The tall windows here have been bricked in at the top and replaced with shorter one-over-one sash. The other windows in the tower remain unaltered. To the north of the tower, one bay from the main facade is a one-bay projection, a later addition. The roof cornice continues around this, and the porch cornice extends across it as well.

Behind the tower extends the back wing, also of three stories with a high basement. It is four bays long with a door in the last bay; a one-story porch has been built over the door and window next to it. The window sash in the wing have six-over-six panes. A pavilion one bay wide projects eastward from the rear to balance the tower.

The wing is three bays wide on the south. A large chimney runs up the center bay, with a window through it at the mansard level.

The west facade of the wing formerly had a portico for carriages. This side, not visible from the street, now has a fire escape.

The brick house is presently painted gray with white trim. It is evident from an earlier black and white photograph that the house was once painted a lighter color with dark trim.

It was not possible to get into the building for the purposes of this report. First divided into apartments in 1919, the house still serves as Summit Park Apartments. Before the present owner purchased the building in 1977, many of the original architectural features remained inside. It is not known what alterations have been made by the owner, if any.

The house had wide halls and ceilings ranging from ten to fifteen feet high. There were tall doorways, but the door knobs were set only two feet off the floor. A recent Summit tenant measured a typical window in the main block as 36" wide by 110" high. There was a wealth of paneling. The house had a water tank and bathroom from its beginning and was equipped with stoves rather than fireplaces.

None of the outbuildings remain on the property.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summit is a survivor from Catonsville's history as a summer retreat for Baltimore's very rich. From the 1840s through the 1800s, wealthy merchants and bankers, among others, purchased property here and erected large summer homes. The Italianate villa, a popular type at mid-century, appears here as is evidenced by the Summit. Begun in the 1850s in this style as a two-story house, the Summit probably faced west. It is thought to have been incomplete in 1860, and, in any case, damaged during the Civil War. A later owner altered the house in the French Second Empire style, adding the third floor mansard roof on the house and the fourth story mansard on the tower (the latter now gone). These changes were probably made by James A. Gary, a well-known man in national Republican politics during the last quarter of the 19th century and the first two decades of the 20th. The addition of a mansard was a way of altering a house to make it more stylish, something desired by and feasible for a man of Gary's position.

After about 1890 Catonsville was still largely a summer resort, but a different group of people was building during this period. They were from Baltimore's upper middle class, and many of their houses were built in the Queen Anne style. The houses remaining in Catonsville from its period as a fashionable summer place are for the most part from this later period. The Italianate houses of the earlier time, altered by later taste or not, have suffered a harder fate. Most of them are gone or in very deteriorated condition, leaving Summit as one of the few reminders of their time.

Summit was begun between 1850 and 1857, most probably shortly after the land was acquired by Margaret Elizabeth Koefoed from William T. Somerville in 1854. Before that date the property appears to have been unimproved, being lot #60 of the Baltimore Iron Company's holdings in what was to become Catonsville. The 58 1/2-acre tract passed from Zachariah Rhodes to Mathias Benzinger in 1848 (B.C. Deeds AWB 401:95), and the 1850 Baltimore County map by J. C. Sidney shows Benzinger's dwelling south of Frederick and east of Rolling Roads. Benzinger sold the property to Francis Rutter in April 1850 (Deeds AWB 432:513), and in 1851 the land was acquired by William T. Somerville, a member of a prominent Catonsville and St. Mary's County family (Deeds AWB 465:224). He, and John L. Caton, in turn, conveyed the property to Mrs. Koefoed "as if she were sole and unmarried." (Deeds HMF 9:476). The property appears on Robert Taylor's 1857 county map as "Elsinore" owned by Margaret husband, Charles Koefoed.

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Summit  
Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Mrs. Koefoed was born Margaret Elizabeth Carpenter in St. Mary's County, where her family was wealthy and prominent. Family traditions relate she met her husband, Charles J. Koefoed of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, on a sea voyage she had taken for her health. Koefoed had left his native Denmark at the age of 12 and become wealthy and successful. He came to Baltimore as 'consul' for St. Thomas. He was also owner of the St. Thomas Ice Establishment. His descendants claim he designed the Catonsville house himself, but never lived to see it completed. He was dead by 1862, and his widow, Margaret "of St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, now temporarily in Maryland" died in 1864 leaving four children (Mettie, Charles, Caspar, and Albert) in the guardianship of her brother, William C. Carpenter (Wills JLR 2:358). Her inventory is that of a two-story house with the following rooms: West Room, Hall, East Room, South Room upstairs, West Room upstairs, West Room in the Garret, Kitchen, Pantry, East Room upstairs, East Room in the Garret (Inventories JP 6:9-14). Outbuildings consisted of a tool house and dog house. Family tradition claims that at this time the mansion was still incomplete, and that Mrs. Koefoed resided in a cottage on the grounds. They also say soldiers used the unfinished mansion as quarters during the Civil War, damaging its interior.

By the time Mrs. Koefoed's executor came to sell the property, it had acquired the name "the Summit." A subdivision plan was drawn by the Baltimore landscape architect J. Wilkinson, showing Stanley Drive much as it is today, skirting the northeast corner of a very large house with a wide main block and a spacious back building (Orphans Court Records, Account of Sales, JP 4:344). In September 1867 Mrs. Koefoed's executor made a private sale of Lot #2, with the main house, and other lots, to Gustave A. Meyer (Account of Sales, JP 4:343), Deeds EHA 57: 479}. Meyer mortgaged the property in 1871 to James A. Gary (Mortgage Records EHA 43:166); two years later Gary sued Meyer and as mortgagee ordered the "magnificent country estate" to be sold.

The following advertisement appeared in the Baltimore American of June 18, 1873, p. 3:

THAT MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY SEAT KNOWN AS THE "SUMMIT," situated on the Frederick Turnpike road, about six miles from the city of Baltimore, just beyond and adjoining the thriving and beautiful village of Catonsville.

It contains about sixty-one acres of land, twenty-one of which is a delightful grove, the balance in a high

See Continuation Sheet #3

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE 3

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

state of cultivation. The improvements consist of a large DOUBLE BRICK MANSION, two stories and a-half high, divided into large and convenient apartments, with high ceilings, wide halls, broad piazza, and all the modern convenience of bath room, closets, a fine billiard room, water reservoirs etc. There is a fine large Barn, Carriage House, Ice House, Gardener's House, and all the improvements harmonizing with the mansion. There is a great variety of beautiful shade trees, an excellent Orchard of select fruit, and the choicest of Grapes, berries, and small fruits.

The entire establishment is one of the most beautiful desirable and healthful, for a Country seat in the vicinity of Baltimore while its proximity to the thriving village of Catonsville, adds greatly to its value, as it is in demand for building purposes, and avenues might be opened through it and the property sold or leased in lots at highly advantageous terms. It affords a rare opportunity for investment to any capitalist desiring a fine residence, or for suburban improvements.

Colonel Bowen, on the premises, will take pleasure in showing the property at any time prior to the sale, to any persons contemplating purchase.

The Catonsville cars, leaving Baltimore every hour pass directly by the place. The 12 o'clock car on the day of the sale will reach the place in season for persons desiring to attend.

James A. Gary was the highest bidder, purchasing the estate for \$28,000. The property appears on the 1877 inset map of Catonsville in the G. M. Hopkins atlas of Baltimore County. The 1876 tax ledger for the First District describes the dwelling: "Improvements \$9025." Gary was not able to execute a deed to himself, and none was recorded.

James Albert Gary, Postmaster General for President McKinley, was born in Uncasville, Connecticut, in 1833. His father, James Stanley Gary, was in the cotton manufacturing business, and in 1838 moved to Laurel, Maryland. In 1853 he established the Alberton Manufacturing Company at Elysville. Young Gary was educated at Rockhill Institute in Ellicott City, and received a B.A. from Allegheny College in 1854.

See Continuation Sheet #4

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Summit  
Baltimore County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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PAGE 4

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

He also worked for his father's company half of each year from the age 13. When he entered business with his father in 1861 as a partner of James S. Gary and Son, he knew the cotton manufacturing business from the ground up. By 1861 the company had expanded to have plants in Alberton (now Daniels) in Howard County, and in St. Louis, Missouri. Gary took over the company on his father's death in 1870, and remained active until shortly before his death in 1920.

While pursuing his manufacturing business, Gary became active in politics, first as a Whig, then in 1861 as a member of the newly formed Union Party; he was a delegate to that party's first convention in 1861. When the Union Party became the Republican Party after the Civil War, Gary took a leading roll. He attended every Republican National Convention from 1872 to 1896. He ran (unsuccessfully) for Congress in 1872, and for governor in 1879. He was frustrated in his efforts on behalf of the Republican party in a state controlled by Democrats, but the nation consistently elected Republican presidents, and federal patronage in Maryland was largely Republican. An intimate of President Hayes, in 1880 he became a Republican National Committeeman. During the presidencies of Garfield, Arthur and Harrison he controlled much Maryland patronage, particularly that of the post office. In 1883 he became chairman of the Republican State Central Committee. By the 1890 the Republicans, riding a wave of Progressive reform which had focused on the abuses of the Gorman-Rasin machine, gained power on the state level, electing a governor in 1896, and carrying the state for McKinley in the national election. The enormity of this task becomes apparent when one realizes that Maryland had strong southern sympathies during the Civil War, and McKinley had been a Union general.

McKinley appointed Gary Postmaster General in March 1897; he served until April 1898 when poor health and a desire to look after his personal business caused him to resign. While Postmaster General he was a known advocate of postal savings. He remained interested in politics, and his only son, E. Stanley Gary, became closely associated with reform politics in Baltimore City.

There are many references to Gary entertaining at his "fine country house in Catonsville" in the columns of Herald Argus during the 1890s. The Garys, like other prominent and wealthy Baltimoreans, summered in Catonsville. He was married to Lavinia W. Corrie in 1856, and had seven daughters and one son. He and his wife entertained President McKinley and members of the Cabinet at their town house on Linden Avenue, and most likely at the Summit as well. In November 1900 President McKinley attended the wedding of one of their daughters. The

See Continuation Sheet #5

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Summit  
Baltimore County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

Linden Avenue residence no longer exists.

In 1919, a year before his death, Gary sold the Summit to Martin Healy, Samuel H. Helfrich and Frank L. Mohler, partners in the Summit Park Company (Deeds WPC 516:254, 498). They subdivided the outlying grounds, and turned the mansion into ten apartments. The development company sold Summit Park Apartments to Walter R. Tabler and wife in 1944 (Deeds RJS 1341:519) and the Tabler family sold it in March 1977 to the present owner, Adolf Saxon (Deeds EKH Jr. 5731:544).



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Genealogy and Biography of Leading Families of the City of Baltimore  
and Baltimore County, (New York: 1897), 296.

"On Your Neighborhood," Baltimore Post (1933), 25-27 (note collection of articles).







David H. Carroll & Thomas G. Boggs, Men of Mark in Maryland, II, (Baltimore:1911), 135.

"James Albert Gary, "Dictionary of American Biography, VII, 176-77.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1,838

## UTM REFERENCES

A     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C   

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

n7m

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Bayly Ellen Marks

## ORGANIZATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Office of Planning and Zoning

July 24, 1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

County Landmarks Commission

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

401 Bosley Avenue

STATE

Baltimore.

Maryland 21204

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

1. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ATTEST**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Baltimore  
West  
Quad



UPDATE  
23A 1107

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAH1 03-1107-2504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

SUMMIT; Elsinore

AND/OR COMMON

James A. Gary House, now Summit Park Apartments

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

10 Stanley Drive

CITY, TOWN

Catonsville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd (1st Councilmanic)

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES RESTRICTED  
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frank P. and M. Kelly Ardissonne

Telephone #: 730-1913

STREET & NUMBER

6139 Campfire

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21045

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

County Courts Building

Liber #:

EHK JR. 6321

Folio #:

708

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD 21204

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

National Register

Baltimore County Final Landmarks List

DATE

N.R. (7-24-1979)

☒

FEDERAL

☐ STATE

☒

COUNTY

☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

MHT/21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

MD 21401

received 1/18/82

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-1107

mag # 0311075504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1. NAME

> HISTORIC Summit.

BA-1107

AND/OR COMMON

Gary House, Summit Park Apartments

## 2. LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

10 Stanley Drive

BALTIMORE WEST QUADRANT

1st ELECTION DISTRICT

3rd Congressional District

CITY, TOWN

Catonsville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Councilmanic District

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Baltimore Co.

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Adolf SaxonTelephone #: 747-6600

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1300 Summit Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Catonsville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21228

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: ENK JR. 5731Folio #: 544

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Md. 21204

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

DATE

Entered 8/1/77 as BA-1107

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDSMARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Md. 21401

# 77 DESCRIPTION

BR-1107

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT      ☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ GOOD            ☐ RUINS  
☒ FAIR            ☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Summit is a very large brick house that might be classed as a Franco-Italianate villa. It is three stories in the main facade, five bays wide. The third story windows are set in the mansard roof. A wide porch runs across the main facade. The porch is decorated with patterned railings painted white. The front of the porch contains a row of basement windows. Double center doors are flanked by sidelights and topped with a transom. The doors open into a large hall where a mahogany staircase was the main feature. Windows are very large, as was the style in the Italianate era of Victorian; the large panes are set 2 by 2 in double sashes along the main facade; the center bay of the second story contains one window flanked by sidelights. Four out of the five bays have windows equipped with blinds (or shutters). The mansard roof is sheathed in patterned slate and punctuated by three double windows of 2 by 2 sash type. Each pair of windows is topped by a triangular verge board. The ridge line of the roof is trimmed with ornamental spikes. The cornice below the mansards is studded with Italianate brackets.

Viewed head-on, Summit is not overwhelming; the house seems to be of domestic proportions. But viewed from the east, the building seems to be of massive dimensions, especially with its three-story Italianate tower, which rises one bay to the rear of the front porch. The tower is two bays deep along its east facade and one bay wide on its north and south facades; it stands to the eastward of the back building and rises clear of the mansard roof; it terminates with a bracketed cornice and a fairly flat roof.

The ground slopes away on the east facade of the house, making room for a range of full-sized basement windows. This side of the house was not designed with much formality, certainly not to be aligned with a residential street within a stone's throw of the walls. The east facade continues from the tower toward the rear as a back building 4 bays deep; there are the two regular stories, plus the mansard story with the same type of dormers found on the front. The windows of the back building are smaller than those on the first and second stories of the main facade--the windows are ordinary 6-on-6 double-hung sash types. A one-story side porch is located along bays three and four.

A pavilion one bay wide projects eastward from the back building to balance the tower. A mullion window is located at the second-story level.

The rear of the back building is three bays wide, and the roof mansarded. A large end-chimney runs up the center bay, and one sash window emerges through the chimney at the mansard roof level.

The west facade of the back building was formerly fitted up with a portico for carriages, but that was removed. This side, not visible from the streets, contains a fire escape.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Inside, the house was rich in paneling. It had wide halls and high ceilings ranging from 10 to 15 feet high. There were tall doorways--some of them 10 feet high, and the doorknobs were set only two feet off the floor--either placed within convenient reach of children or put there to create an optical effect. A recent Summit dweller measured a typical window in her apartment as 36 inches wide by 110 inches high. The house was possibly two generations ahead of middle-class city housing, having a water tank and a bathroom from its beginning, and was equipped with stoves rather than fireplaces for warmth. The house contains only two fireplaces as described by Bette A. Nunn in a 1975 paper.

The popularity of mansard roofs lasted from 1855 to 1870, and the appearance of the Koefoed house on a map of 1857 as "Elsinore" may make this bracketed romantic villa one of the very early examples. Certainly it had taken final shape by 1864 when the various "garret" rooms were enumerated in Mrs. Koefoed's inventory and by 1866 when a house of this general shape appeared in J. Wilkinson's plat of subdivision.

"On Your Neighborhoods," Baltimore Post, undated clipping, c. 1933.

Bernard C. Steiner, Men of Mark in Maryland (Washington, D.C., 1907), pp. 136.

"Mortgagee's Sale," advertisement, Baltimore American, June 18, 1873, p. 3.

# 84 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1107

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summit is a remarkably large Victorian house in a mixture of styles, built somewhere between 1850 and 1857. The ground was owned during the 18th Century by the Baltimore Company and was part of the large timber reserve that provided the charcoal essential to the company's iron making works at the mouth of Gwynns Falls. When the iron company's holdings were broken up after the Revolution, this was Lot No. 60. After Catonsville began to develop as a convenient place for town dwellers to have summer homes, the land passed through a number of hands, apparently in speculative transactions. This 58- $\frac{1}{2}$  acre tract passed from Zachariah Rhodes to Mathias Benzinger in 1848 (Deeds AWB 401:95), and the 1850 county map by J.C. Sidney showed Benzinger's dwelling somewhere in this area south of Frederick Road and east of Rolling Road. Benzinger sold to Francis Rutter in April 1850 (Deeds AWB 432:513). In 1851, William T. Somerville acquired the property, and in 1854 he deeded it to Margaret Elizabeth Koefoed by a bond of conveyance, and later he made another conveyance by deed to Mrs. Koefoed and her husband Charles J. Koefoed. The 1857 county map by Robert Taylor showed a structure owned by Charles Koeford--a dwelling called Elsinore, an appropriately Danish name, because Mr. Koefoed was a wealthy native of Denmark.

Oral traditions of the Koefoed family hold that Mrs. Koefoed, born Margaret Elizabeth Carpenter in Saint Mary's County, had met her husband on a sea voyage. Charles J. Koefoed had left his native land at age 12 and had become successful. His descendants believed that he had designed the house himself, down to the smallest detail.

In spite of having an enormous house in Catonsville, the family resided at times in the Danish West Indies (now called the U.S. Virgin Islands), where Koefoed was consul and also owner of the Saint Thomas Ice Establishment. Other family traditions hold that the house was only partially completed when Mrs. Koefoed died in 1864 and that it stood open to the elements some years. Mrs. Koefoed died on the Island of St. Thomas in the spring of 1864, and an inventory of her Catonsville property enumerated the furnishings and objects found in the following rooms:

West Room	Kitchen
Hall	Pantry
East Room	East Room Upstairs
South Room Upstairs	East Room in the Garret
West " "	
" " in the Garret	

(Inventories 6:9).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

There was one "outbuilding," a dog house, and some advanced farm equipment, including a wheat fan, wheat thrashing machine, straw cutter, horse power, Pittsburg plough, two Davis ploughs, and a horse rake. There was also a story that the house was used to quarter soldiers during the Civil War, but the inventory shows the rooms to be full of the mistress's personal possessions.

By the time Mrs. Koefoed's executor came to sell the property, it had acquired the title of "The Summit." A subdivision plan was drawn on linen by the famous Baltimore landscape architect of that time, J. Wilkinson, and the lines show Stanley Drive much as it is today, skirting around the northeast corner of a very large house with a wide main block in front and a spacious back building (Orphans' Court Records, Account of Sales, JP 4:344). In September, 1867, Mrs. Koefoed's executor made a private sale of Lot 2, which contained the main house, and of other lots to Gustave A. Meyer (Account of Sales, JP 4:343; deeds EHA 57:479).

Gustave A. Meyer mortgaged the property to James Albert Gary in 1871 (Mortgage Records EHA 43:166) and two years later, Gary sued Meyer and, as mortgagee, he ordered the "magnificent country estate" put up for sale; Gary found that he was the highest bidder and sold it to himself for \$28,000 (American, June 22, 1873).

The pre-sale advertisement inserted in the American of June 18, 1873, p. 3, gives a verbal picture of Summit at its peak:

THAT MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY SEAT KNOWN AS THE "SUMMIT," situated on the Frederick Turnpike road, about six miles from the city of Baltimore, just beyond and adjoining the thriving and beautiful village of Catonsville.

It contains about sixty-one acres of land, twenty-one of which is a delightful grove, the balance in a high state of cultivation. The improvements consist of a large DOUBLE BRICK MANSION, two stories and a-half high, divided into large and convenient apartments, with high ceilings, wide halls, broad piazza, and all the modern convenience of bath room, closets, a fine billiard room, water reservoir etc. There is a fine large Barn, Carriage House, Ice House, Gardener's House, and all the improvements harmonizing with the mansion. There is a great variety of beautiful shade trees, an excellent Orchard of select fruit, and the choicest of Grapes, berries, and small fruits.

The entire establishment is one of the most beautiful desirable and healthful, for a Country seat in the vicinity of Baltimore while its proximity to the thriving village of Catonsville, adds greatly to its value, as it is in demand for building purposes, and avenues might be opened through it and the property sold or leased in lots at highly advantageous terms. It affords a rare opportunity for investment to any capitalist desiring a fine residence, or for suburban improvements.

Colonel Bowen, on the premises, will take pleasure in showing the property at any time prior to the sale, to any persons contemplating purchase.



The Catonsville cars, leaving Baltimore every hour pass directly by the place. The 12 o'clock car on the day of sale will reach the place in season for persons desiring to attend.

Summit appears on the 1877 inset map of Catonsville as Gary's property in the G.M. Hopkins atlas. The 1876 tax ledger of District 1 described the dwelling in but one word and a number: "Improvements \$9025." Of course, Gary was not able to execute a deed to himself, and none was recorded. During his ownership, the grounds were well kept and the Baltimore Post in a 1933 article recorded the recollection that "the slope that goes up to the house was a mass of flowers in the summertime and in the winter the hot house was filled with blooms."

The flowers from Summit were also used as decorations for the political meetings that occurred with regularity at Gary's town house on Linden Avenue. The master of Summit was practically the "Mr. Republican" of Maryland politics, although never successful at the polls. As a Whig, he had been defeated for the State Senate in 1858, and as a Republican, he was twice defeated for Congress and once defeated for the governorship. However, he attended every Republican National Convention from 1872 to 1896 and held control of patronage in the Baltimore post office and the custom house under Presidents Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, and Harrison. President McKinley appointed him postmaster general, and he was confirmed March 5, 1897. Upon the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, fearing the strain on his health, Gary resigned, April 21, 1898. President McKinley dined on occasions with Gary, but the dates have not been ascertained.

Gary was also a success in business. His father, James Sullivan Gary, had moved to Maryland from Connecticut in 1838 and helped establish a textile works at Ely's-ville on the Howard County side of Patapsco River. In 1857, James S. Gary became sole owner, and named the mill town Alberton in honor of his son--the name appears in print in the American of March 9, 1858. James Albert Gary was taken into the firm in 1861, but only after having started at the bottom. The heir apparent and namesake of the town had worked half of each year in the plant from age 13 up (i.e., beginning about 1846). He also managed to attend Rockhill Institute in Ellicott City and Alleghany College, where he obtained a B.A. degree in 1854.

James Albert Gary also became president of the Citizens National Bank and served as president of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, and as vice president of the Consolidated Gas Company. He was on the board of both Pratt Library and Brown Memorial Church. He had one son, James Stanley Gary, for whom Stanley Drive is named, and seven daughters.

Gary held on to the 64-3/4 acre estate with its four dwellings, barn, garage, and greenhouse until just about a year before his death. In October 1919, he sold to Martin Healy, Samuel H. Helfrich, and Frank L. Mohler, partners who conveyed their interests to the Summit Park Company. Gary died on October 31, 1920.

The Summit Park Company subdivided the outlying grounds as shown in Plat Book WPC 5, f. 71, leaving the house on Lot 5D. The oversized dwelling provided space enough for ten apartments and became known as Summit Park Apartments. The development company sold it to Walter R. Tabler and wife in 1944 (RJS 1341:519), and the Tablers and their heirs held title until March of 1977.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bette A. Nunn, "James A. Gary and the Gary Mansion," ms., paper submitted at Catonsville Community College, 1975.

"James Albert Gary," Dictionary of American Biography, 1932, 7:176-177.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (See continuation sheet)

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.838

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning ... west side of Park Drive (see Plats WPC 5:71); bounded by SW side of Stanley Drive along curves to corner of Lot 4; thence

S85°	58'W	222.28 ft	N2°	02'W	90 ft
SC°	36'E	311.51 ft	N87°	58'E	208.12 ft to beginning.
N87°	58'E	122.03 ft			

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	none	COUNTY	none
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	COUNTY
-------	--------

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

John McGrain

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

June 28 1977

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OF TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD. 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438